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The work of Dr. HENNIGS is in every way meritorious and is a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the Spanish drama.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

PRONUNCIATION OF SPANISH-AMERICAN WORDS.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES :

SIRS:—Two or three pronunciations of the same word prevailing among persons in constant daily intercourse is a phenomenon so usual that no one should be surprised at it; nevertheless I was considerably astonished and at times exasperated, during a recent visit to southern California, to find not only the inhabitants of one place pronouncing the Spanish name of their city in a great variety of ways, but even the same individual shifting from one pronunciation to another in the course of a five minutes conversation. The following instances, casually noted, could doubtless be supplemented by many others equally curious. They are taken from the lips of men and women who have lived in California from six to forty years.

LOS ANGELES.—The changes rung upon this name probably exhaust all the possible permutations. I have heard, as the pronunciation of *Los*: [1] Los¹ [2] Lōs [3] Lōs [4] Lōz; as the pronunciation of *Angeles*: [1] Än-jelēs [2] Än-jelēs [3] Än-jelus [4] Än-jelus [5] Än-gelēs [6] Än-gelus [7] Äng-gelēs [8] Äng-gelēs [9] Äng-gelus. The editor of the leading paper of the city pronounced the name Los Än-jelus and Los Äng-gelus, indifferently. A teacher in the public schools told me that in the school-room she commonly said Lōs Än-gelēs, but she was not sure that her example was followed by her co-workers. The newsboys in the streets call Lōz Än-jelus and Los Än-jelus. I did not hear anyone use the Spanish pronunciation.

SAN JACINTO.—Generally San Jasinto, but I have heard San Yasinto. Several teachers said San Hasinto.

SAN BERNARDINO.—Shortened, popularly,

¹ The pronunciation is approximate. I use the diacritical marks of the 'Century Dictionary.'

to San Barn'dēno, or, in the mouths of certain Easterners, to San Bā'dēno. In the newspapers facetiously termed San Berdoon.

RATON.—Commonly ratōñ', but occasionally ratōñ'.

SAN MIGUEL.—San Migēl' and San Migēl'.

PASADENA.—Commonly Pāsādēna, but often Pasadāna, and occasionally Pāzadāna.

NAVAJO.—Navā'yo and Navā'ho.

OLLA.—I did not at first recognize this Spanish word in the common *ō-yer*, the name for the unglazed, amphora-shaped earthen vessel so much used in southern California to cool drinking-water. Those who are particular with regard to their pronunciation say *ō-yä*.

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CHAUCER'S PROLOGUE.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES :

SIRS: In MOD. LANG. NOTES for May 1891, Dr. BROWNE in his criticisms on the MORRIS-SKEAT 'Chaucer' says that "to ll. 12-14 (of 'Prol.),' Prof. Skeat makes a strange innovation," i. e. by printing l. 12 without a comma at the end, and l. 13 in brackets and also without a comma. It may be worth noticing that Prof. ZUPITZA of Berlin long ago suggested that reading in *Anglia*, I. 474. In his course on CHAUCER during the summer semester of 1890, he still adhered to his former opinion. He emphasized the difficulty of the "to" in "to ferne halwes" after "to seeken," and further that the drift of the passage seemed to be about folk going on pilgrimages, and the "palmers" were mentioned incidentally. ZUPITZA would also interpret "of evene lengthe" (l. 83) as "von der richtigen Grösse." It seems to me that we might say that a certain person was a typical so-and-so, meaning general appearance including size. In l. 276 'for' might perhaps better be preposition than conjunction. Of l. 400 SKEAT now adds what is evidently the right interpretation, although in old editions the line was passed over. It is strange to find MORLEY, 'English Writers' vol. v, (1890) p. 295, paraphrasing the passage thus: "If he fought, and had the upper hand, he sent home his wine by water to every land."

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